

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW YORK
ARTISTS EQUITY ASSOCIATION'S
55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 4, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of New York Artists Equity Association (NYAEA), now celebrating its 55th anniversary.

Since 1947, New York Artists Equity Association has been a strong advocate for legislation on behalf of visual artists, and has provided services to support the development of the visual arts in our communities. NYAEA not only fights for the future of the visual arts, but places the New York artistic community in the context of history, as a necessary component of society, one that enriches our lives.

New York Artists Equity Association's mission of education, awareness, and support for

the visual arts has provided the basis for its constant efforts. By promoting emerging artists in its wonderful Broome Street Gallery, it has successfully integrated those artists into the larger community. By preserving endangered visual art work, it assures the record of our rich artistic past. Through educational outreach, it has developed a new audience which is constantly expanding.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly commend NYAEA, under the leadership of its Executive Director, Regina Stewart, for supporting visual artists at a time when the resources they receive from the government are simply not enough. NYAEA has provided support for many visual artists who otherwise would not have received help. Through referrals, legal services, and health care programs, the Association helps ensure economic stability for visual artists who might otherwise be forced to abandon their talents due to economic difficulties. By providing, communication within the community, it helps establish a strong support base for issues relevant to artists' needs.

I stand here today to thank New York Artists Equity Association for all it has done to advocate for visual artists, consistent with the needs of their community. I am proud that NYAEA is in my Congressional District, and that its work reaches far beyond my District to help visual artists in the larger community. I also want to thank one of the Association's Past Vice Presidents, Doris Wyman, who serves on my Arts Advisory Committee, for consistently championing the needs of visual artists. Because of my on-going work with this fine organization and their leadership, I know of their constant efforts to change regressive policies on the arts and I commend them.

For fifty-five years, NYAEA has supported visual artists and been a passionate advocate for their causes. I salute New York Artists Equity Association for helping to assure a stable artistic community—one that is, and always must be, an integral part of our heritage and culture.